

November 15, 1962

Dr. Paul Doty
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Dear Paul:

Having to collect some thoughts for a paper at a CIBA symposium on the Biological Future of Man, I persuaded myself that some social dynamite is likely to explode much sooner than most people have faced up to. Generally speaking I am referring to the power implicit in biological engineering based on molecular biology -- I have tried to bring out some aspects in the accompanying paper, and perhaps they are not what I would have put down automatically as short term concerns. Whether there is much to be done in anticipation, I do not know, though I do have some suggestions. You may have others, or perhaps better, some idea how such matters should relate to national policy. Do you think PSAC? Apart from yourself, is it well enough informed on modern biology? I would be alarmed to have to rely upon organized medicine, or the PHS.

Concrete suggestions (if one accepts imminence and alarms on transplantation-- and its "economic" fallout):

1. Primate breeding re immunogenetics (outlined in paper) by contract if necessary.
2. Requirement for registry of all attempts at human organ transplantation. This would give some useful statistics, be no great burden at present; It would establish precedent and context of orderly regulation of the spare parts market before this becomes a contentious problem. I tried to think of Constitutional authority for federal interest in chimerism -- there is one: Article I, Sec. 2.
3. Strong push for industrial scale synthesis of proteins -- e.g., If human somatotropin should become a crucial commodity, or some transplantation antigens or what have you, the technology should be anticipated.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics